

RESPONSE & REFLECTION QUESTIONS

ePEARL Level 1

To help teachers understand the reflection and response prompts we offer in Level 1 of ePEARL, we have prepared the following document. Each question is associated with a “reflection type”, as laid out in the following article: Douillard, K. (2002). Going past done: Creating time for reflection in the classroom. *Language Arts*, 80(2), 92-99.

The reflection types are:

- **Recounting:** A simple retelling of what happened.
- **Observation:** Noticing and labeling additional details.
- **Questions:** Generating questions based on the learning experience.
- **Connections:** Recognizing relationships between new learning and past experiences.
- **Evaluation:** Making judgments based on learning.
- **Self-Awareness:** Being aware of own learning.
- **New Information:** Recognizing new knowledge.
- **Details:** Adding specific information.

Adapted from: Douillard, 2002 (96).

Getting your students to reflect well is a process and takes time to develop. To start students off with reflective questions, we recommend using Recounting questions, as these encourage the simplest kind of reflection. The other types of reflection categorized above are more challenging. Once your students are comfortable with recounting, we recommend varying the questions with other types of reflections. The diversity in reflective thinking is important, so we encourage teachers to make use of questions that prompt as many types of thinking as possible.

In ePEARL Level 1, you will see the following prompts for *Reading Responses*:
(These questions currently appear in the drop-down menu)

- **Recounting:** “This story tells about...”
- **Questions:** “If I could meet the author, I would ask...”
- **Connections:** “This story made me remember another story called... because...”
- **Evaluation:** “I liked the way the author wrote about...”
- **Self-Awareness:** “What did you feel when you were looking at the pictures?”
- **New Information:** “Did you learn something new from this story?”
- **Details:** “What do you think will happen next?”

You could also vary, by using these questions:

- **Observation:** “My favourite character was... because...”
- **Evaluation:** “I didn’t like the way the author wrote about...because...”
- **Connections:** “Does this story remind you of other stories you have read?”
- **Connections:** “Does someone in this story remind you of someone in another story? Why?”
- **Questions:** “If I could meet a character, I would tell him/her...”

In ePEARL Level 1, you will see the following prompts for *Reflection*:

- **Recounting**: “What did you do when you got stuck on a word?”
- **Observation**: “I make fewer mistakes when...”
- **Connections**: “This time, how was your reading different from the last time you read?”
- **Evaluation**: “My favourite kind of story is... because...”
- **Self-Awareness**: “When choosing a book/story to read, what do you look for that makes it a perfect choice for you?”
- **New Information**: “What new trick did you learn that helped you read?”

You could also vary, by using these questions:

- **Recounting**: “When I needed help with reading this story I...”
- **Recounting**: “To make sure that I understood what I read, I...”
- **Evaluation**: “What kind of stories are your favourite? Why?”

In ePEARL Level 1, you will see the following prompts for *Writing Reflections*:

- **Recounting**: “The picture is about...”
- **Observation**: “What was your favourite thing when you were writing?”
- **Connections**: “What makes you better at writing now than you were at the beginning?”
- **Evaluation**: “When I was writing, it was hard to...”
- **Self-Awareness**: “I had help writing from...”
- **New Information**: “What can you do now that you could not do in the beginning?”

You could also vary, by using these questions:

- **Recounting**: “What is this writing about?”
- **Recounting**: “When I had trouble writing something, I...”
- **Self-Awareness**: “I got the idea to write this story from...”

